

Let's shape our future together

A shared vision, identity and priorities for the new City of Parramatta



The City of Parramatta Council is currently working to create a shared vision and shared identity for the new Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA). We sought the opinions of residents, stakeholders and local organisations to help us understand the different aspirations and priorities within the community. We ran a range of different engagement activities to make sure we spoke to as many different groups as possible.

We received lots of ideas about the future of the City, as well as feedback on the services you saw as being important and which areas should be prioritised for funding through the Stronger Communities Fund.

The consultation period ran in two stages over eight weeks from September to November 2016. This is a summary of the outcomes from the entire consultation process which will now help inform the work on the development of a draft community strategic plan early next year.

1,241 people participated

Across all of the engagement activities.

FIRST STAGE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

877 online surveys completed

With community members across the whole LGA

120 workshop participants

Including youth, residents from new/existing suburbs and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

54 intercept interviews

Conducted at busy local spots and events across Epping, Parramatta and Wentworth Point

37 stakeholder representatives

In addition to meetings with the Former Councillor Representative Committee, Local Representative Advisory Committee and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander committees

6 one-on-one interviews

Specifically with residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

SECOND STAGE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

120 attendees at the 21st Century Town Hall Meeting

27 focus group participants

The Town Hall Meeting was open to residents of all ages, located across all suburbs within the LGA and stakeholder organisation representatives. Council staff assisted as table scribes and the session featured keynote addresses from the Administrator, Amanda Chadwick, Interim General Manager, Greg Dyer and youth speaker, Lakshmi Logathassan.

Three focus groups were conducted; two with new and existing residents and one group of non-residents from across Sydney.

How the community sees the future. For the City of Parramatta

Key themes

- Local identity
- Heritage
- Cultural diversity
- Vibrant
- Local economy
- Creative
- Optimistic
- Open spaces
- Green
- Community pride

The top strategic priorities for the City. For the City of Parramatta



Promoting green spaces and the environment



Improving transport



Building a stronger Council



Managing growth

The Stronger Communities Fund. For the City of Parramatta

Key preference areas (Social projects)

- Development of community spaces and associated infrastructure
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Open space and urban bushland
- Acknowledging and celebrating indigenous and non-indigenous heritage

Key preference areas (Economic projects)

- Supporting the development of cultural and creative industries
- Infrastructure to support economic development
- Events, programs and activation
- Supporting development of markets and related businesses



Overall feedback.

We found most people were optimistic about the future of Parramatta. They saw it as being the next big city due to its central location and ease of access but with a unique sense of place and identity. There is an established sense of history in the buildings and culture of each suburb, in addition to the features within the Parramatta CBD.

Infrastructure was seen as important with the community stressing that it must keep pace with population growth and development to ensure that Parramatta can grow sustainably. A key part of the future vision for the City was having diverse communities coming together to enjoy and celebrate their vibrant, multicultural home.

Economic strength was seen as important to provide job opportunities and services to locals. Arts and cultural events were seen as a priority as they provide a vehicle for creative expression and greater social connection. A future focus on local precincts was also seen as important as it would allow each suburb within the LGA to develop its own unique culture and business offering.

For more information on our community consultation please visit:

www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/community_engagement